Decline in foreign tourists arrival

†1685. SHRI Y.P. TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to increase in terrorist attacks, there has been an adverse impact on the tourism sector in the country and the number of foreign tourists visiting India has decreased; and

(b) if so, the details of steps being taken by Government to deal with this issue and make up the loss of the foreign exchange as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) and (b) The number of Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs) in India during January-November 2008 is estimated at 4.84 million, which is higher than the FTAs of 4.48 million during January-November 2007. However, the growth rate in FTAs during January-November 2008 over the corresponding period of 2007 is only 8% as compared to growth rate of 14.8% in FTAs during January-November 2007 over the corresponding period of 2006. The lower growth rate in 2008 may be due to various reasons including the global financial meltdown and terrorist activities. To minimize the negative impact of recent terrorist attacks on tourism in the country, the Ministry of Tourism has undertaken the following confidence building measures:

- All States have been requested to beef up security measures in hotels and at tourist sites in their respective States;
- India tourism offices overseas are in regular contact with the international media and travel trade to keep them updated on the ground situation in the country.

Global tourism industry

1686. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the global tourism industry has witnessed a notable shift towards emerging markets including India which featured as one of the most sought after destination and has been named as a "rising star";

(b) whether Indian tourism has been improving for the last several years;

(c) whether Government has also considered project for Kulu tourism;

(d) what are the concrete steps and measures Government proposes to take to improve tourist sports in the country so that more and more tourists are attracted to visit India;

(e) whether any concrete policy in this regard has been prepared by Government; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) As per "Country Brand Index 2008" report of the consultancy organization Future Brand, USA, the markets in Africa, Asia Pacific and Middle East are experiencing higher growth rates than the world average in terms of total travel and tourism demand, while the markets in Americas and Europe are falling below the world average.

The report has identified top 10 countries in 30 different categories. Of these categories, India features in 6 categories namely authenticity, history, art & culture, value for money, most impressive

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

last year and rising stars. In the category of rising star, India has been ranked fifth.

(b) Tourism in India has grown steadily in the last few years, with the number of Foreign Tourist Arrivals in India increasing to 5.08 million in 2007 from 2.38 million in 2002 with a compounded annual growth rate of 16.4%.

(c) to (f) Development and promotion of tourism is primarily undertaken by the State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations. The Ministry of Tourism extends Central Financial Assistance for project proposals submitted by the State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations that are complete as per scheme guidelines, subject to availability of funds and *inter-se* priority.

The Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned Rs.3.80 crore for the promotion of destination Outer Seraj in Kullu District during the financial year 2007-08.

Devastating flood in Bihar

1687. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that recent devastating floods in Bihar caused a heavy loss of life and property and damage to embankments of rivers, roads and bridges;

(b) how much monetary help extended by the Central Government to the State Government of Bihar to repair the damage caused by flash floods; and

(c) the measures being taken by Government to save the State from flash floods by controlling flood water and how much money has been released by the Central Government till now for rehabilitation work in Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The Government is aware that recent devastating flood in Bihar due to breach in eastern afflux bund of Kosi barrage caused heavy loss of life and property.

(b) and (c) For repairs of eastern afflux bund an advance amount of Rs. 39.90 crore was released to the Government of Bihar. In addition an amount of Rs.1000 crore has been released by the Ministry of Home Affairs from National Contingency Fund (NCCF) to the Government of Bihar for relief and rehabilitation works.

Cause of flood in Kosi river

1688. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:
SHRI RAHUL BAJAJ:
Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) what was the cause of the flooding of Bihar by the Kosi river; and

(b) what steps are proposed to ensure no recurrence in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The Eastern Afflux Bund of Kosi Barrage at Kusaha (Nepal) was breached on 18th August, 2008 causing flooding in Bihar by the Kosi river.